

Dear Parent/Carer,

On behalf of all of the staff of Stoke Damerel Community College I would like to thank you all for your hard work and support you have given the College over the past academic year. We have been delighted to be able to offer many students additional opportunities in school with the releasing of restrictions over this term. Over 60 students have completed Duke Of Edinburgh expeditions this term, and we were delighted to have 3 days of Sports Days this week.

In preparation for the new academic year, we would like to advise all parents of the following:

Returning to School

As students will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school students should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Below shows a table of time slots where individual year groups will be tested. **For a detailed breakdown of specific times by tutor groups, please see our website.**

Day / Date	Year / Time	Entrance / Exit
Thursday 2nd September Test 1	Year 7 8.15-10.45am Year 9 11.15-1.15pm Year 11 1.45-3.00pm Year 12 10.00-1.00pm	Tennis Courts PE Playground PE Playground PE Playground
Friday 3rd September Test 1	Year 8 8.45-11.30am Year 10 11.30-1.00pm Year 13 10.00-1.00pm	PE Playground PE Playground PE Playground
Monday 6th September Test 2	Year 7 9.00-3pm Year 9 12.00-1.15pm Year 11 1.45-3.00pm Year 12 10.00-11.00pm	Tennis Courts PE Playground PE Playground PE Playground
Tuesday 7th September	Year 7 8.35-3pm Year 8 8.15-11.30am Year 10 11.30-2.15pm Year 13 2.00-3.00pm	Tennis Courts PE Playground PE Playground PE Playground
Wednesday 8th September	All year groups - Normal Day	

- Students should come in for their testing slot. These times are highlighted on our website
- Students must **ONLY arrive for their testing slot on the day allocated.**
- Students must arrive at the **PE Gate** via the lane at the front of College, unless Year 7 who enter via the car park entrance
- All students must:
 - **attend in full school uniform**
 - **bring their bag containing their reading book and the pencil case of equipment (with only the school provided equipment)**
 - **wear their face covering at all times within the school building**
- Students will have their uniform and pencil cases checked and restocked ready for learning.

During the holiday LFT tests can be collected from pharmacies.

School Arrival Times

To ensure our school site remains safe and secure we will be opening all gates at **8.25am** from September. Students are not permitted on site before that time unless attending a supervised activity. From **7.45am-8.15am** any student may come into the College via the main reception and attend one of the following clubs:

- Breakfast club in Senior Dining Room where they are provided with a free breakfast and a quiet space to talk to friends
- Sports activities on the Astro or sports hall
- Homework Club where they are able to receive support with self questioning, Hegarty, Tassomai and Bedrock (Year 11 Common Room or library)

Morning provision and breakfast is free and part of our offering to support all families. Students not attending our morning provision will be allowed onsite from **8.25am**, when the back gates will open.

Twilight Lessons

As of September we will be making some changes to our twilight lessons (3-4pm). **Year 7 to 9 will no longer have any twilight lessons.** Year 10 will have a compulsory twilight lesson as part of their timetable every Wednesday until 4pm. Year 11 will have a twilight until 4pm Monday to Thursday and optional wellbeing sessions on a Friday. Post 16 twilight lessons are across the week.

Early Closure

Please be reminded that our annual College Open Evening will take place on **Wednesday 15th September**. To enable us to prepare the College we will be closing to all students from 12.20pm.

Uniform

Reminder all school uniform must be ordered via our website and will be available for collection from college between 10am and 2pm on any weekday in the holiday. You will be notified from our reception team when your uniform has arrived.

We expect students to wear 'traditional', well-constructed, weather-proof, leather or leather-type shoes with a low heel. Trainers - black or otherwise, including popular designs such as Nike Air, Converse or Vans-style shoes - are not acceptable. For those wishing clarification on our uniform standards and expectations, further [guidance can be found on the College's website](#).

Just to clarify:

No false nails or nail varnish

No extreme hair colour or styles

Permitted: one pair of plain silver or gold small earrings, a watch, one plain ring

No retainers or facial piercings

Opaque tights (not see through) or short socks (Black)

Uniform Store Plymouth

The Uniform Store pop-up shop will be taking in donations from Tuesday July 13 and getting the store ready in preparation for opening the store. They will be accepting donations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays between 10am and 3pm at Plymouth Vineyard Church, 13 Cornwall Street (Close to M&S in the City Centre). They are looking for donations of good quality school uniforms that can be passed on to other families in need.

They will be opening their pop up shop on Tuesday 27 July and the store opening times will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 10am to 3pm.

The [Click & Collect](#) service will be running alongside the shop opening times from July 27 so people can order online and pick it up from the store during our opening times.

Visits / Tours

A number of parents / carers have asked to visit the College to see the positive impact of the changes we have made over recent weeks and months. If you are interested in visiting the college during the school day, please email Mr Cole on dcole@sdcc.net providing a preferred day and we will be delighted to show you around. Tours will tend to be at 9.15am, 11.30am and 2pm for around 30 minutes.

Key terms used to support learning

We have shared key strategies with the students and staff, setting them as expectations for every lesson, creating a culture of respect and participation. You may hear the following terms at home:

<p style="text-align: center;">S.L.A.N.T</p> <p><i>Sit up</i> <i>Listen to the speaker</i> <i>Ask and answer questions when directed</i> <i>Never interrupt the speaker</i> <i>Track the teacher</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">S.H.A.P.E</p> <p><i>Speak in full sentences</i> <i>Hands away from our faces</i> <i>Articulate, we never mumble,</i> <i>Project; answer clearly and loudly</i> <i>Eye contact; to show we are confident.</i></p>
<p>S.T.E.P.S - <i>Sir or Miss, Thank you, Excuse me, Please and Smile!</i></p>	

What to bring to school

All students must bring a suitable bag to school as they carry their books for the day to and from school. Students are provided with a full pencil case at the beginning of term, however should they lose items, they can either purchase them from the shop or they will be given the item and the cost taken off parentpay.

Please top up the parentpay account with £2 to purchase any equipment that needs replacing. This might need topping up throughout the year but will ensure that all students have the equipment needed for learning.

Mobile Phones

We recognise that a mobile phone is in the interests of safety for the journey to and from College that students may carry phones in their bags. However we do restrict the use of electronic devices due to their impact on student learning and therefore they must be switched off before entering the College site in the morning and should not be turned on again until they exit the school site at the end of the day. The main reception can be used for emergency communication.

Hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours faithfully,



Anita Frier
Principal